

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-13 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W

----- 115398

R 031235Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8169

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 1011

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PINS, IS, JO

SUBJECT: ISRAELI ARMY BLOCKS GUSH EMUNIM BID TO SETTLE NEAR
JERICHO

REF: JERUSALEM 539, JERUSALEM 545

1. ISRAELI ARMY AUG 2 BLOCKED ATTEMPT BY GUSH EMUNIM
TO SETTLE NEAR JERICHO. ABOUT 60 SETTLERS, INCLUDING JEWISH
DEFENSE LEAGUE HEAD MEIR KAHANE, SET OFF FROM JERUSALEM IN
A BUS AND SEVERAL CARS AND PROCEEDED VIA THE TAIYIBA ROAD
TOWARDS JERICHO ALONG ROUGHLY THE SAME ROUTE AS THEIR
MARCH OF APRIL 18 AND 19 (SEE REFTELS). THE CONVOY WAS
TAILED BY ARMY VAN AND SURVEYED FROM ABOVE BY ARMY
HELICOPTER. AFTER BEING HALTED BY AN ARMY ROADBLOCK NEAR THE
"WORK CAMP" OF OFRA, THE SETTLERS TOOK TO BACK ROADS, BUT
EVENTUALLY STOPPED BECAUSE OF TROUBLE WITH BUS. ACCORDING
TO JERUSALEM POST, SOLDIERS THEN ALLOWED SETTLERS TO EAT
AND PRAY, BUT PREVENTED THEM FROM ERECTING A TENT BEFORE
RETURNING THEM TO JERUSALEM IN ARMY BUSES.

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2. EXCEPT FOR ARMY ROADBLOCKS AT ENTRANCES OF CITY, LIFE IN JERICHO SEEMED UNAFFECTED BY SETTLEMENT ATTEMPT. ARABS THERE HAD CLASHED WITH ARMY DURING APRIL GUSH EMUNIM "MARCH", BUT ON AUG 2 BUSINESS WAS NORMAL DESPITE GUSH EMUNIM SETTLEMENT ATTEMPT AND DESPITE THE TAX STRIKE IN EFFECT THROUGHOUT REST OF EST BANK.

3. COMMENT: GUSH EMUNIM ADVERTISED THEIR INTENTIONS IN THIS CASE WIDELY. GIVEN THIS FACT, PLUS TIMING OF ACTION, IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING MEETING OF MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON SETTLEMENTS REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED FOR AUG 3 AND FOLLOWING AUG 1 UNSCHEDULED CABINET DISCUSSION OF QADDOUM SETTLEMENT, IT WOULD APPEAR SETTLERS WERE MORE CONCERNED WITH INFLUENCING GOI POLICY THAN ESTABLISHING THIS PARTICULAR SETTLEMENT AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME. NEVERTHELESS, GUSH ADHERENTS HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED THEIR INTENTION OF ESTABLISHING SETTLEMENT AT JERICHO AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO PERSIST IN EFFORTS, HOPING, NO DOUBT, TO SUCCEED EVENTUALLY AT LEAST TO DEGREE THEY HAVE AT QADDOUM.
NEWLIN

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Message Attributes

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